

with references to full descriptions, has, most unaccountably been ignored by all writers on ornithological nomenclature.

The Palestine Warbler will doubtless stand as *Sylvia melanothorax*, Tristram (Ibis, 1872, p. 296). I have only seen skins obtained by Canon Tristram in Palestine and by Lord Lilford in Cyprus. The immature birds come so near Rüppell's figure and Heuglin's description of *Sylvia lugens* (Rüpp. Neue Wirb. p. 113, pt. 42, 1835), that I should have hesitated to consider the two species distinct if I had not had the opportunity of examining the type of *Curruca lugens* in the Senckenberg Museum at Frankfort. Rüppell's bird has far too large a first primary to be admitted into the genus *Sylvia* at all, and is certainly not *S. melanothorax*.

I am unable to find any characters to entitle *Melizophilus* to stand as a genus. All the species which I have enumerated have the tail shorter than the wing, except the following:—

S. blanfordi has the tail $\frac{1}{40}$ longer than the wing.

S. deserticola has the tail $\frac{1}{20}$ longer than the wing.

S. melanocephala has the tail also $\frac{1}{20}$ longer than the wing.

S. sarda has the tail $\frac{1}{20}$ longer than the wing.

S. undata has the tail varying from $\frac{1}{9}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ longer than the wing.

I have much pleasure in doing tardy justice to the discoveries of a distinguished field-naturalist by rescuing two of his new species from the oblivion in which cabinet-naturalists had buried them; but I venture to suggest that, if my friend Canon Tristram had described his species in honest English, instead of in ornithological Latin, they could scarcely have been overlooked so long. The attempt to give them a cosmopolitan fame has resulted in their absolute seclusion for half a lifetime.

XXVII. *Remarks on the Second Part of Mr. Ramsay's 'Contributions to the Zoology of New Guinea.'* By T. SALVADORI, C.M.Z.S.

MR. RAMSAY has been so kind as to send me an early copy of his "Contributions to the Zoology of New Guinea," containing a list of the Mammals and Birds obtained during

Mr. Goldie's second expedition to New Guinea, with descriptions of some new birds recently forwarded to the Australian Museum by Mr. Kendel Broadbent, from the same localities.

Mr. Ramsay's paper, published in the 'Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales,' vol. iii. pp. 241-305, 1879, is an important one, as the materials at his command were very extensive; and I have thought that it would be interesting to the readers of 'The Ibis' to have some remarks on the part of the paper relating to the birds, especially as there are not a few species described as new, on which, as well as on others, I think I am able to make some apposite criticisms.

Mr. Ramsay's paper treats of not less than 214 species of birds, which were represented by about 2500 specimens. These were mostly collected along the southern coast of the eastern peninsula of New Guinea; but some were from Deboyne Island and Teſte Island in the Louisiade archipelago.

ACCIPITRES.

Mr. Ramsay mentions 11 species of this order; the following require some notice.

BAZA REINWARDTI, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 246.

Mr. Ramsay, after having mentioned a specimen from the Laloki river, goes on to say that "it is most certainly different from the New-Ireland species, which Dr. Selater places under the same name (P. Z. S. 1877, p. 109)." I have seen the specimen mentioned by Dr. Selater; and I noticed that it differed from twenty specimens from New Guinea, Waigiou, Salwatty, Amboyna, &c. in the under wing-coverts being white without the *buff* tinge, which was constant, although more or less intense, in those twenty specimens. As to the other differences in the tail and in the wing, mentioned by Mr. Ramsay, they are dependent on age.

MACHÆORHAMPHUS ALCINUS, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 247.

A fine pair is mentioned by Mr. Ramsay. At present, with the specimen previously noticed by Mr. Sharpe (Journ.

Proc. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 308), we know of three specimens from the south of New Guinea of this rare bird, which is scattered over a very extensive area.

ASTUR SHARPEI, Ramsay, *l. c.* pp. 173, 248.

I do not think that this species will stand. In my 'Pro-dromus Ornithologiæ Papuanæ et Moluccarum,' pt. v. *Accipitres*, p. 38, sp. 28 (note), which Mr. Ramsay seems to have overlooked, I have stated that, having compared the specimens from the south of New Guinea assigned by me to *Urospizias torquatus* (Temm.) with the typical specimen from Timor, and with the type specimen of *Nisus australis*, Less., from Australia (*Peron*), I found them to agree in every respect. I think also that *Astur cruentus*, Gould., is the same; at least the figure in the 'Birds of Australia' (vol. i. pl. 18) does not show any difference.

STRIGES.

Mr. Ramsay mentions four species of this group, two of which he describes as new.

NINOX DIMORPHA, Salvad.; Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 248.

To this species, of which the typical specimen is still unique, Mr. Ramsay assigns a fledgeling; it would be important to compare it with the adult described by me.

Mr. Ramsay takes the opportunity to mention that his *Ninox novæ-britanniæ* is not the same as *N. odiosa*, Sclat.; and I think that he is right; but I question whether it is not the same as *N. variegata*. The difference mentioned by Mr. Ramsay, in the *front, face, and chin* being *not whitish* in *N. novæ-britanniæ*, does not seem to me conclusive, as in the typical specimen of *N. variegata*, examined by me, those parts are also not exactly whitish: the lores, the forehead, and the chin are whitish; but the face is rufous, growing paler towards the anterior part.

NINOX ALBOMACULATA, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 249.

The description of this bird agrees with that of *Ninox assimilis*, Salvad. et D'Alb.

NINOX UNDULATA, Ramsay, sp. nov., *ibid.*

It seems to me that the description of *N. undulata* applies well to specimens of *N. humeralis* (Hombr. et Jacq.); if I remember rightly, Canon Tristram, to whom I showed in London a specimen of *N. humeralis*, told me that he had received the same bird from Port Moresby.

PSITTACI.

Ten species of Parrots are mentioned by Mr. Ramsay.

NASITERNA PUSILLA, Ramsay, *l. c.* ii. p. 105, iii. p. 251.

I think it will be necessary to compare this species with specimens of my *N. beccarii*.

APROSMICTUS CHLOROPTERUS, Ramsay, nov. sp., *l. c.* p. 251.

I consider this a good species, allied to *Aprosmictus chloropterus*, D'Alb. et Salvad., from the Fly River. Mr. Sharpe has described the same bird under the name *Aprosmictus broadbenti* ('Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.' April 1879).

LORIUS HYPÆNOCHROUS, Gray, apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 254.

Lorius hypænochrous, var. *guglielmi*, *l. c.* p. 106 (1878).

This is *Lorius erythrothorax*, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. x. p. 32, xiv. p. 39, a species perfectly distinct from *L. hypænochrous*.

CHALCOPSITTA[CUS] CHLOROPTERUS, Salvad. et Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 254.

I have already given up this species (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. xiv. p. 37), which was founded rather on an individual variety than on a young specimen.

CUCULIDÆ.

Nine species are included in Mr. Ramsay's list.

LAMPROCOCYX MINUTILLUS, Gould, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 255.

I should say, from Ramsay's description, that the specimens mentioned by him under this head must belong to *L. russata*, Gould, of which I have seen many specimens from Hall Bay, exactly like others from Cape York. I have united *L. russata* to *L. pæcilurus* (Gray) (Prodr. Orn. Pap. et Molucc. pt. vi. *Cuculidæ*, sp. 14).

LAMPROCOCYX LUCIDUS (Gm.), Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 256.

I suspect that the bird so named is *L. plagosus* (Lath.), a different species from *L. lucidus* (Gm.), which I only know from New Zealand.

LAMPROCOCYX MEYERI, Salvad., Ramsay, *ibid.*

I only knew this species from the Arfak Mountains. It would be interesting to compare the southern specimens with the northern ones.

CACOMANTIS ASSIMILIS, Gray, Ramsay, *ibid.*

This cannot be Gray's species, which never has the underparts rich castaneous red or rufous. Mr. Ramsay does not think that the specimens doubtfully referred by him to *C. assimilis* belong to *C. castaneiventris*—to which species I have assigned specimens from Naiabui in the south (Prodr. *Cuculidæ*, sp. 5), from the Arfak Mountains, from Salwatty, and from the Aru Islands, which seemed to me the same as the Australian ones.

CACOMANTIS DUMETORUM, Gould, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 257.

This, in my opinion, is not different from *C. tymbonomus* (S. Müll.).

CENTROPUS SPILOPTERUS, Gray, apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 258.

Mr. Ramsay, following Mr. Sharpe (Journ. Proc. Linn. Soc. xiii. pp. 81, 310, 491), now assigns to *C. spilopterus*, Gray, the bird which on previous occasions has been described by me under the name of *Polophilus nigricans*, Salvad., Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. ix. p. 17 (1876), and which has been assigned by Mr. Ramsay to *Centropus melanurus*, Gould (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. i. p. 394). I have already stated (Prodr. vi. *Cuculidæ*, sp. 36) that Mr. Sharpe was in error; and I take this opportunity to explain that his mistake arose from the fact of his not having fully adult specimens of *C. spilopterus* in the British Museum. *Polophilus spilopterus* (Gray), (very badly named) in the adult state is perfectly uniform greenish black; and it is not such a typical *Polophilus* as my *P. nigricans*, which, when fully adult, has the wings and the tail marked with light bars and freckled with rufous.

In *P. macrurus*, Gould, from Cape York (called *melanurus*, Gould, by Mr. Ramsay), the wings and the tail-feathers are not blackish, as in my *P. nigricans*, but reddish banded with black.

ALCEDINIDÆ.

Of the ten species mentioned by Mr. Ramsay the following deserve notice :—

ALCYONE AFFINIS, Gray, apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 258.

This name belongs to the species from the Halmahera group, which is sufficiently distinct from that of New Guinea. The latter ought to stand as *A. lessoni*, Cass.

TANYSIPTERA SALVADORIANA, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 259.

Mr. Ramsay has done me the honour of naming after me the *Tanysiptera* from the south of New Guinea, allied to *T. sylvia* from Cape York. I have already pointed out (*Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen.* viii. p. 815) the chief differences; but my specimens were not in very good plumage; so I did not venture to describe them as belonging to a new species. But no doubt Mr. Ramsay, who most likely has specimens in good condition, has been able to judge better than I.

HALCYON ALBICILLA, Cuv., apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 261.

I have examined Cuvier's type; and I am quite convinced that the Marianne-Islands bird is a peculiar species, and that the bird from New Guinea and the surrounding islands ought to stand as *Sauropatis saurophaga* (Gould).

DACELO LEACHI, var., Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 261.

This is *D. intermedius*, Salvad. et D'Alb., which I still think sufficiently distinct from any of the Australian forms. At any rate the New-Guinea bird is more like the bird from Cape York (*D. cervinus*, Gould) than that of Queensland (*D. leachi*, Vig. et Horsf.).

PODARGIDÆ.

PODARGUS MARMORATUS, Gould, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 264.

The only specimen described by Mr. Ramsay is, according to me, *P. ocellatus*, Q. et G., which varies a good deal, and with which I think that *P. marmoratus* is identical.

CYPSELIDÆ.

COLLOCALIA SPODIOPYGIA, Peale, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 265.

It would have been interesting to know if the specimens which are now assigned to this species by Mr. Ramsay are not the same as those described by him as *Cypselus terra-reginæ*, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 601.

MUSCICAPIDÆ.

RHIPIDURA CASTANEOTHORAX, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 270.

The description of this species applies in every respect to a specimen of *R. hyperythra*, Gray (= *rufiventris*, Müll.), from Northern New Guinea.

RHIPIDURA AMBUSTA, Ramsay, sp. nov., *ibid.*

Mr. Ramsay does not mention any species to which his *R. ambusta* is allied. It seems to me that if it is not the same as *R. threnothorax*, Müll., it must be very nearly allied to it.

There is another *Rhipidura* lately described by Mr. Ramsay, *R. episcopalis* (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. I. W. ii. p. 371), which, I think, has been rightly identified with *R. leucothorax*, Salvad., by Mr. Sharpe (Cat. B. iv. p. 474).

EOPSALTRIA PLACENS, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 372.

This is a good species, which has been described quite recently also by Mr. Sharpe as *Pæcilodryas flavicincta* (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. April 1879). As it belongs to the group of *P. capito* (Gould) and *P. leucops* (Salvad.), it seems that its proper place is in the genus *Pæcilodryas*.

MICRÆCA ALBOFRONTATA, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 304.

The description applies in every respect to my *Monachella saxicolina* (= *Muscicapa muelleriana*, Schleg.).

GERYGONE INCONSPICUA, Ramsay, *l. c.* pp. 116, 273.

I should say that this species is nearly allied to *G. chrysogaster*, Gray, if not the same.

MALURIDÆ.

?TODOPSIS CYANOCEPHALA, Q. et G., apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 274.

The southern bird is different from the northern, and it is very much like the Aru-Island species, *T. bonapartii*, Gray, to which it has been assigned by Mr. Sharpe and myself.

DICÆIDÆ.

MELANOCHARIS, sp., Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 276.

Mr. Ramsay suspects that a specimen from the Goldie river may be the same as my *Melanocharis unicolor* from Jobi. This appears to me hardly possible. If really different, Mr. Ramsay proposes for it the name of *M. bicolor*.

PITTIDÆ.

PITTA MACKLOTI, Temm., Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 277.

To this species, I think, must be assigned also *Pitta novæ-hyberniæ*, Ramsay (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. iii. p. 73), from New Ireland and from the Duke-of-York Islands. I have seen a specimen from New Britain, mentioned by Mr. Selater (P. Z. S. 1877, p. 99), which positively was not to be distinguished from others from New Guinea &c.

EUPETIDÆ.

EUPETES GOLDIEI, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 303.

It appears to me that *E. goldiei* is the same as *Eupetes ajax*, Temm., which would more properly be placed in the genus *Cinclosoma*. D'Albertis has lately found this bird along the Fly River (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. xiv. p. 85).

LANIIDÆ.

PACHYCEPHALA COLLARIS, Ramsay, *l. c.* pp. 74, 281.

From Teste Island; unknown to me.

PACHYCEPHALA FULIGINATA, Ramsay, *l. c.* pp. 74, 282.

I am not quite convinced that this bird is really different from *P. leucogastra*, Salvad. et D'Alb.

PACHYCEPHALA BRUNNEA (Ramsay), *op. cit.* i. p. 391; iii. p. 282.

From the Laloki river. Unknown to me.

CAMPOPHAGIDÆ.

GRAUCALUS ANGUSTIFRONS, Sharpe, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 283.

Even Mr. Sharpe (Mitth. Zool. Mus. Dresd. i. 3, p. 366)

now agrees with me in considering his *G. angustifrons* not different from *G. hypoleucus*, Gould.

EDOLIOSOMA, sp., Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 284.

The birds alluded to by Mr. Ramsay are females and young males of *E. melas*.

CAMPEPHAGA BOYERI (Q. et G.), apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 284.

The southern bird so named by Mr. Ramsay belongs to *Graucalus axillaris*, lately discriminated by Mr. Sharpe. The differences from the northern *G. boyeri* were first pointed out by me (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. ix. p. 26).

MELIPHAGIDÆ.

STIGMATOPS ALBO-AURICULARIS, Ramsay, *l. c.* pp. 75, 285.

Unknown to me.

PTILOIS GERMANA, Ramsay, *l. c.* pp. 2, 285.

Unknown to me.

GLICIPHILA SUBFASCIATA, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 286.

I have satisfied myself that this species is really the same as *G. modesta*, Gray.

ZOSTEROPIDÆ.

ZOSTEROPS LONGIROSTRIS, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 288.

From Heath Island. Unknown to me.

COLUMBÆ.

PTILOPUS PERLATUS (Temm.), apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 290.

This is the southern form, *P. zonurus*, Salvad.

PTILOPUS RIVOLII (Prevost), Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 290.

I am not quite convinced that Mr. Ramsay has rightly identified the birds from Deboyne Island, Teste Island, Cloudy Bay, Blunden River, &c.

Deboyne Island and Teste Island belong to the Louisiade archipelago, as does Duchateau Island, where the typical specimen of *P. strophium*, Gould, was killed; this has no rose-purple on the chest, although it looked to me fully adult. If all the specimens from Deboyne Island and Teste Island are without any red on the underparts, I should say that they belong to *P. strophium*. As to the specimens from Cloudy

Bay (on the south coast of the east end of New Guinea) and those from Blunden River (not yet marked in the maps seen by me), I should say that if, when *fully adult*, they have the middle of the chest red, they belong either to true *P. rivolii* or to an allied new species. Where, I think, Mr. Ramsay is positively wrong is in trying to unite *P. rivolii*, *P. strophium*, and *P. prasinorrhous* as one and the same species.

MEGALOPREPIA POLIURA, Salvad., Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 291.

I am glad to see that Mr. Ramsay, accepting my name for the southern form, agrees with me in considering it distinct. I should like Mr. Ramsay to tell us if the pair of *Megaloprepia puella*, previously mentioned by him (P. Z. S. 1876, p. 115) as from Cape York, really was from that locality, or if it really belonged to the species with the tail *below black*.

CARPOPHAGA VAN-WYCKI, Cass., Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 292.

This species was not yet known from such localities as the south-east end of New Guinea, Deboyne Island, and Bramble Haven. Mr. Ramsay states that he finds no differences between specimens from these localities and those from the Duke-of-York Island.

I suspect that *C. pistrinaria*, Bp., from the Solomon Islands, is the same species.

CARPOPHAGA PACIFICA (Gm.), Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 292.

From Teste Island, South-east Cape, &c. Teste Island belongs to the Louisiade archipelago, where this Pigeon was already found by MacGillivray during the voyage of the 'Rattlesnake' (*cf.* Salvad., Mon. del sottogen. *Globicera*, p. 8). South-east Cape is very near the Louisiade archipelago; but there must be many more places in New Guinea, between South-east Cape and Taraway Island on the northern coast, where this species will also be found.

MYRISTICIVORA SPILORRHOA, Gray, Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 292.

Mr. Ramsay says, "I believe the species found on New Ireland and Duke-of-York islands to be *M. luctuosa* (or *M. bicolor*); however it is certainly not the same as that from

Australia. Against this last statement we have Dr. Sclater's authority, who (P.Z. S. 1877, p. 109) assigns one skin received from the Rev. Mr. Brown to *M. spilorrhoa*. As to the specimens from New Ireland and Duke-of-York Island being *M. luctuosa*, certainly this cannot be the case, as that species is strictly confined to Celebes; neither am I inclined to believe that it is *M. bicolor*.

MACROPYGIA AMBOINENSIS (Linn.), apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 203.

The birds thus named by Mr. Ramsay must be *M. doreya*, Bp., or *M. carteretia*, Bp., and not *M. amboinensis* (Linn.), which is peculiar to the Amboyna group.

GRALLÆ.

PARRA NOVÆ-GUINÆÆ, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 298.

I have not seen the New-Guinea bird. Mr. Ramsay does not point out in what respect it differs from the Australian *Parra gallinacea*.

XXVIII. *Report on the Ornithological Acquisitions of the British Museum in 1878.*

IN the Annual Report on the British Museum presented to the House of Commons* we find among the "most important acquisitions" in the Zoological Department the following specially noticed:—

1. A selected series from the collection of African birds, formed by, and formerly in the possession of, R. B. Sharpe, Esq. This series includes those specimens only which were desiderata in the British Museum, and consists of 3444 named specimens, and 54 types. This purchase has been spread over a period of five years.

* Account "of the Income and Expenditure of the British Museum (Special Trust Funds), for the Financial Year ended the 31st day of March, 1879:"

And, "Return of the number of Persons admitted to visit the Museum in each Year from 1873 to 1878, both Years inclusive; together with a Statement of the Progress made in the Arrangement of the Collections, and an Account of Objects added to them in the year 1878."